

Warden Message

October 23, 2009

Dear Warden and/or Registrant:

The U.S. Embassy in Quito wishes to inform American citizens visiting or resident in the Quito area of upcoming general elections in Virginia. On November 3, 2009, the Commonwealth of Virginia will hold a general election for the offices of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, House of Delegates, and various other State and local offices. You can find a list of candidates at: www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/.

Since this is a non-Federal election, you are only eligible to vote in this general election if you are a Virginia resident and are:

- a Uniformed Service member or family member, OR
- temporarily living outside the U.S. and still have a residence in Virginia, OR
- living outside the U.S. temporarily by virtue of employment, including your spouse and dependents living with you, were registered to vote immediately preceding the move overseas, moved after July 1, 1999 and no longer have a residence in Virginia. If you are a U.S. citizen residing indefinitely outside the U.S. with no residence in Virginia you are not eligible to vote in this non-Federal election.

NOTE: You may not use the Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot to vote in this non-Federal election.

Register to Vote and Request Your Ballot

Register and request a ballot for this election by completing and submitting a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) if you have not done so already in calendar year 2009. If you are eligible to vote in this election, and requested and received a ballot for last year's presidential election, you will automatically receive an absentee ballot, and need not take any further action unless your mailing address has changed.

Send your FPCA NOW to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return your ballot - especially if you are completing the process by mail from an overseas location. State deadlines do not take into account mail transit time.

- Uniformed Service or eligible family members: Although the registration and ballot request deadline is October 27, 2009, you must submit the FPCA NOW, to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return your ballot!
- Overseas citizens: Although the registration deadline is October 5, 2009 and your ballot request deadline is October 27, 2009, you must submit the FPCA NOW, to ensure you have enough time to receive, vote, and return your ballot!

To save time, the online version of the FPCA and Virginia's instructions on how to fill out and submit the form are available at www.fvap.gov. You may submit the FPCA via mail, fax, or as an email attachment directly to the local election office. Mailing addresses, fax numbers, and email addresses can be found at: <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/>. You may verify your registration status here as well. If you fax or email the FPCA, you must also submit the original by mail.

Receive and Return Your Ballot

Local election officials send ballots by September 19, 2009. If you reside outside the Commonwealth, you may receive your blank ballot by fax or as an email attachment but you must request this on the FPCA. Otherwise, the ballot will be mailed to you.

Vote and return your ballot immediately upon receiving it! Be sure to follow the ballot envelope witnessing instructions. You may only return your voted ballot by mail or by a commercial delivery service. You may not return it by a personal courier or by another individual. The ballot may not be returned electronically.

Recommended Mailing Dates for Your Voted Ballot

Although the deadline for your voted ballot to be received by your local election official is 7 pm Eastern Standard Time, November 3, 2009, you should mail your ballot by the following dates to account for mail delivery times:

- From Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom Locations/Deployed Navy Vessels: October 5, 2009
- From Overseas Military Installations: October 19, 2009
- From Other Overseas Locations: October 5, 2009 (or earlier, depending on foreign mail service)
- From Within the United States: October 28, 2009

For More Information: Go to the Virginia State Board of Elections website at: www.sbe.state.va.us, or visit FVAP at www.fvap.gov.

Americans living or traveling in Ecuador are encouraged to register with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate through the [State Department's travel registration website](http://travel.state.gov), and to obtain updated information on travel and security within Ecuador. Americans without Internet access may register directly with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. By registering, American citizens make it easier for the Embassy or Consulate to contact them in case of emergency. Please see the following links for local warden message information in Quito and Guayaquil, respectively, <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov> and <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov>.

U.S. citizens should consult the Country Specific Information for Ecuador and the latest Travel Alerts and Warnings and Worldwide Caution at the Department's web site at

<http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information on travel and security in Ecuador may also be obtained from the Department of State by calling 1-888-407-4747 within the United States or by calling 1-202-501-4444 outside the United States.

The U.S. Embassy in Quito is located at Avigiras E12-170 y Eloy Alfaro. The telephone during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) is (011) 593 2 398 5000 X3800. Within the same city use the last seven digits. Add the city code for intercity telephone calls. See also the Embassy web site at <http://ecuador.usembassy.gov>. American Citizen walk-in hours are between 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Thursday, excluding U.S. and Ecuadorian holidays.

The U.S. Consulate General in Guayaquil is located at the corner of Avenida 9 de Octubre and Garcia Moreno (near the Hotel Oro Verde); telephone (011-593-4) 232-3570 during business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.) or 232-1152 for after-hours emergencies; fax (011-593-4) 232-0904. See the Consulate General web site at <http://guayaquil.usconsulate.gov>.